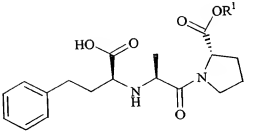
Claims

1. A proline ester represented by the following formula (I):



(I)

wherein R^1 represents a hydroxy-lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy-lower alkyl group, or a lower alkoxy-lower alkoxy-lower alkyl group or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The proline ester as described in claim 1, which is selected from the group consisting of 1-[N-[(1S)-1-Carboxy-3-phenylpropyl]-L-alanyl]-L-proline 2-hydroxyethyl ester, 1-[N-[(1S)-1-Carboxy-3-phenylpropyl]-L-alanyl]-L-proline 3-hydroxypropyl ester, 1-[N-[(1S)-1-Carboxy-3-phenylpropyl]-L-alanyl]-L-proline 4-hydroxybutyl ester, 1-[N-[(1S)-1-Carboxy-3-phenylpropyl]-L-alanyl]-L-proline 2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethyl ester, and 1-[N-[(1S)-1-Carboxy-3-phenylpropyl]-L-alanyl]-L-proline 2-methoxyethyl ester, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. A drug comprising a proline ester as recited in claim 1 or 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. A percutaneous preparation comprising a proline ester as recited in claim 1 or 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. The percutaneous preparation as described in claim 4, which is a patch.

6. The percutaneous preparation as described in claim 4 or 5, which comprises one or more percutaneous absorption enhancers selected from the group consisting of a fatty acid ester and a non-ionic surfactant.

7. The percutaneous preparation as described in claim 6, wherein the percutaneous absorption enhancer is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl myristate, lauromacrogol, lauric acid diethanolamide, glyceryl monocaprylate, glyceryl monolaurate, sorbitan monocaprylate, and polyoxyethylene sorbitan monooleate.

8. Use, for producing a drug, of a proline ester as recited in claim 1 or 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. Use as described in claim 8, wherein the drug is a percutaneous preparation.

10. Use as described in claim 8 or 9, wherein the drug is a prophylactic agent or a therapeutic agent for a pathological condition affected or induced by activation of ACE.

11. A method for treating a pathological condition affected or induced by activation of ACE, characterized in that the method comprises administering a proline ester as recited in claim 1 or 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. The method for treating as described in claim 11,

wherein administration is performed percutaneously.